

Wildlife Resources Commission



Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural
and Economic Resources

April 9, 2013



FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION
A Staff Agency of the North Carolina General Assembly

Wildlife Resources Commission

To conserve North Carolina wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation.

- Create in 1947
- Guided by 19 member Commission
- Six divisions
- Over 645 employees
- Current year budget of ~\$68 million (includes debt service and capital)
- Wildlife Endowment Fund

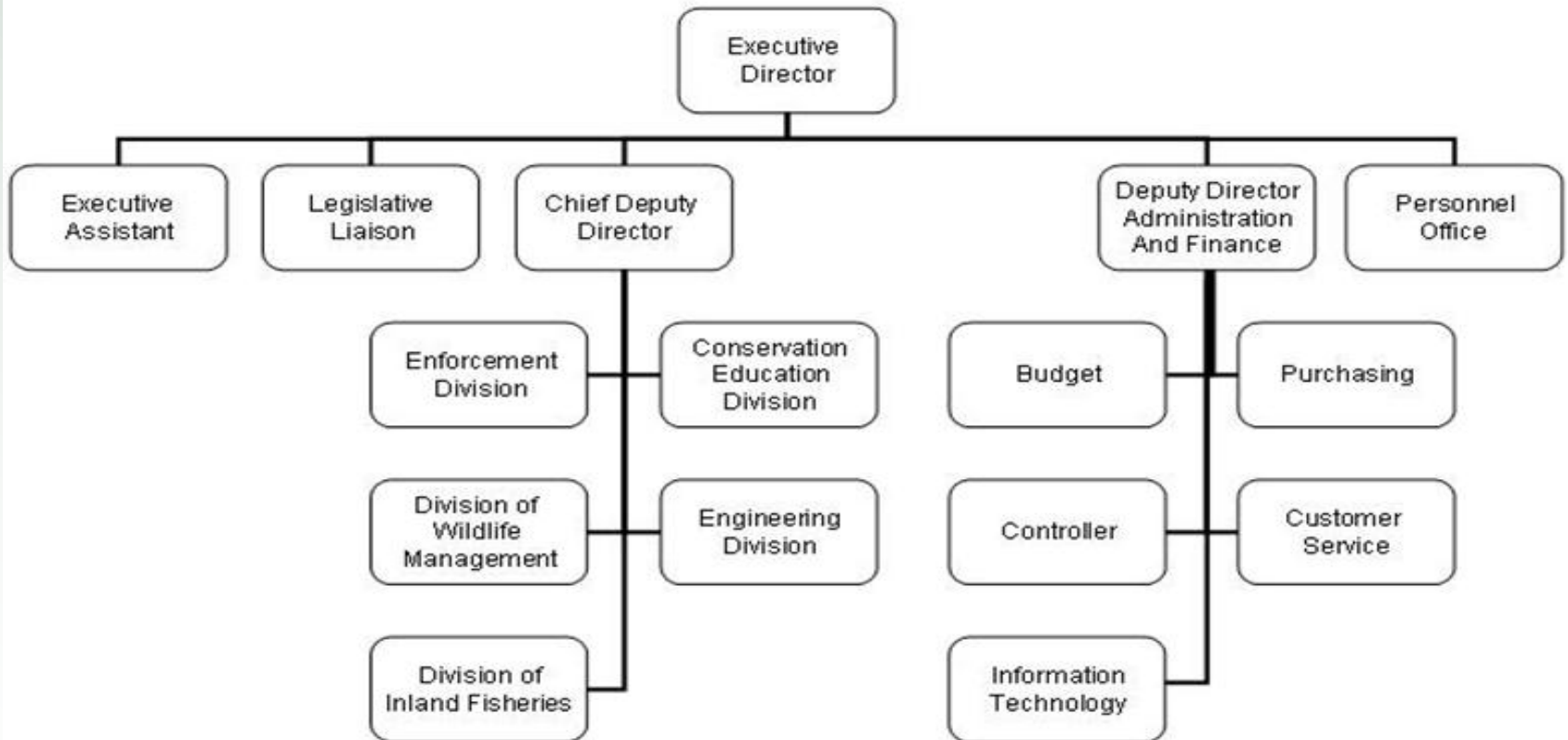
Wildlife Resources Commission

Power and Duties of Commission

- Independent entity with authority to appoint the Executive Director, organize the personnel, budget and plan the use of funds, set policy, hold hearings and adopt rules
- “Manage, restore, develop, cultivate, conserve protect, and regulate the wildlife resources of the state, and to administer the laws related relating to game, game and freshwater fish and other wildlife resources...” Chapter 143, Article 24
- “Publish a list of endangered species, threatened species, and those of special concern... ‘ Chapter 113, Article 25

WRC Organizational Chart

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Organization Chart



WRC Divisions

- **Administrative Services**

- Budget
- Controller's Office
- Management Information Systems
- Purchasing
- Customer Service
 - Hunting/fishing licenses
 - Vessel registrations and titling

FY 2012-13
81.5 FTE
\$9,439,833

- **Engineering Services and Land Mgmt**

- Construction projects, including 211 public boating access areas, 58 fishing access
- Manages 2 Million Acres of Public Game Lands

FY 2012-13
137 FTE
\$12,291,208

WRC Divisions

- Conservation and Wildlife Education

- 4 Environmental education centers
- Educational programming
- Wildlife in North Carolina magazine

FY 2012-13
39.5 FTE
\$ 3,882,409



- Inland Fisheries

- Fisheries research & management
- Fisheries Mgmt: 6 fish hatcheries
- Habitat Conservation

FY 2012-13
83 FTE
\$ 9,648,030

WRC Divisions

- **Wildlife Management**

- Monitor health and status of wildlife
- Address wildlife diseases
- Stock public waters with game fish species
- Work with private landowners to manage nuisance wildlife

FY 2012-13

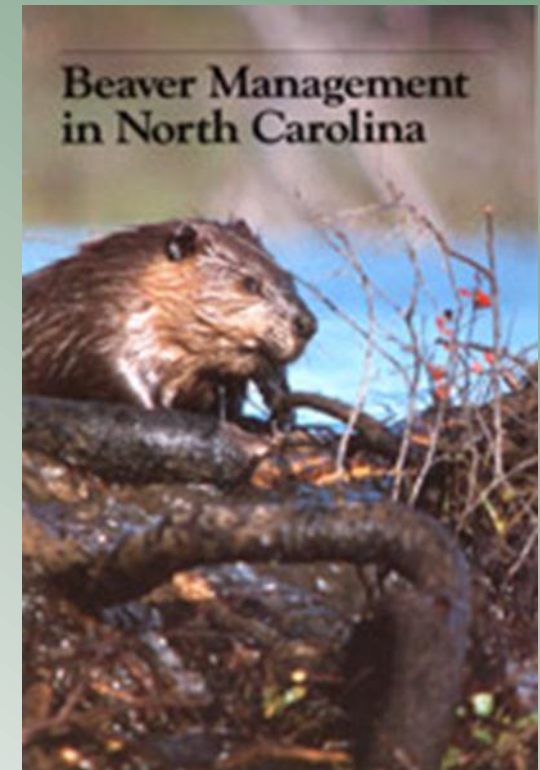
65 FTE

\$ 8,648,309

- **Division of Wildlife Enforcement**

- Enforce fish and game rules and regulations
- Promote safe boating and provide public safety to those engaged in wildlife activities
- Protect state public trust resources

243 FTE
\$ 20,450,632



WRC Revenue Sources

Revenue Sources (2007-08 compared to 2011-12)

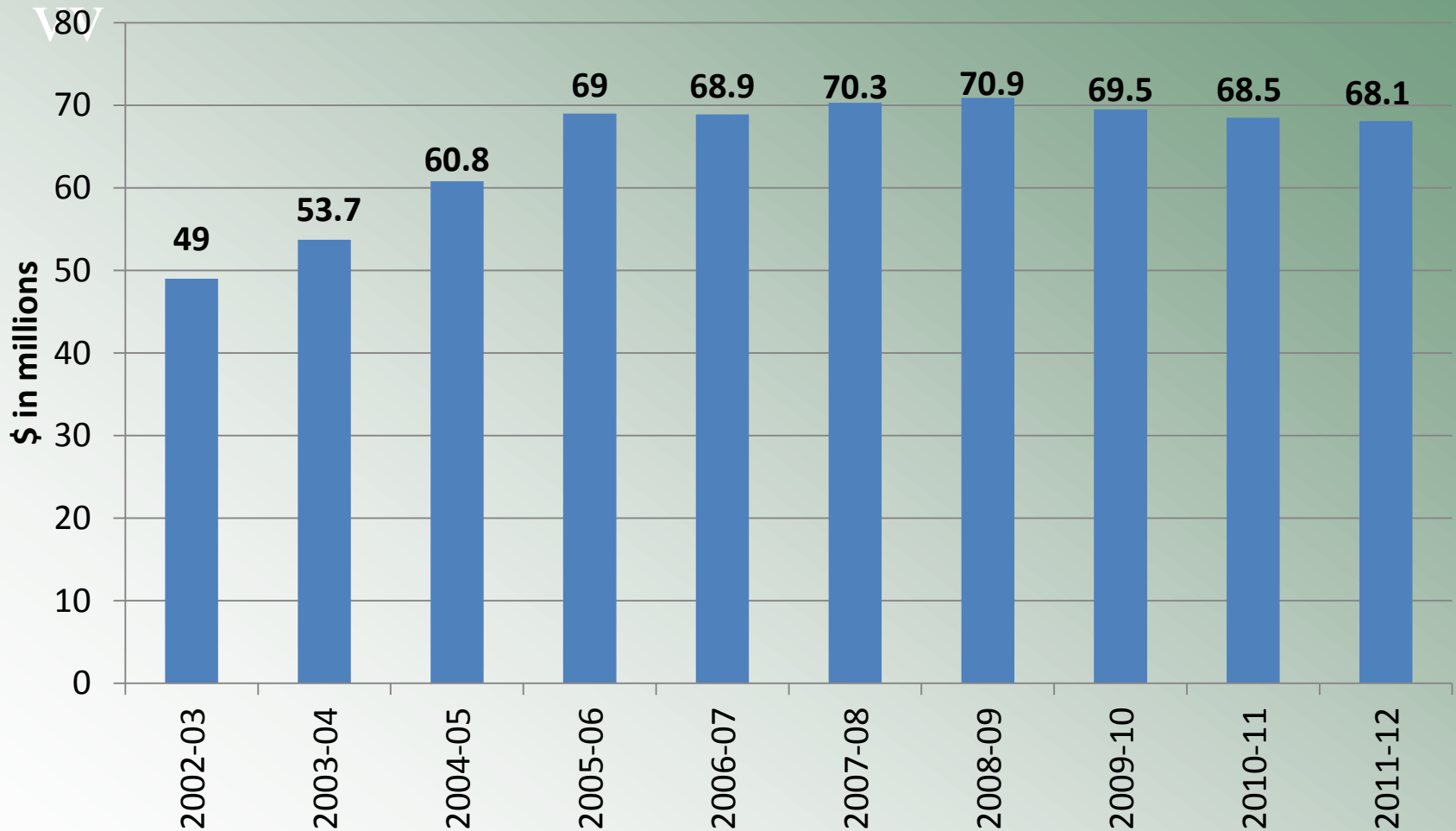
	FY 2007-08		FY 2011-12	
Sales Tax/ GF Appro	~ \$ 24.8 M	32%	~ \$ 18.4 M	26%
Gas Tax Transfer	~ \$ 2 M	3%	~ \$ 2.1 M	3%
Hunting/Fishing Licenses	~ \$ 18.5 M	25%	~ \$ 16.7 M	24%
Boat Registration & Titling	~ \$ 5.2 M	7%	~ \$6.1 M	9%
Other Funds	~ \$ 9 M	12%	~ \$ 8.3 M	12%
Federal Funds	~ \$ 16 M	21%	~ \$ 18.2 M	26%
	~ 75.5M		~ \$ 69.8 M	

WRC Special Funds

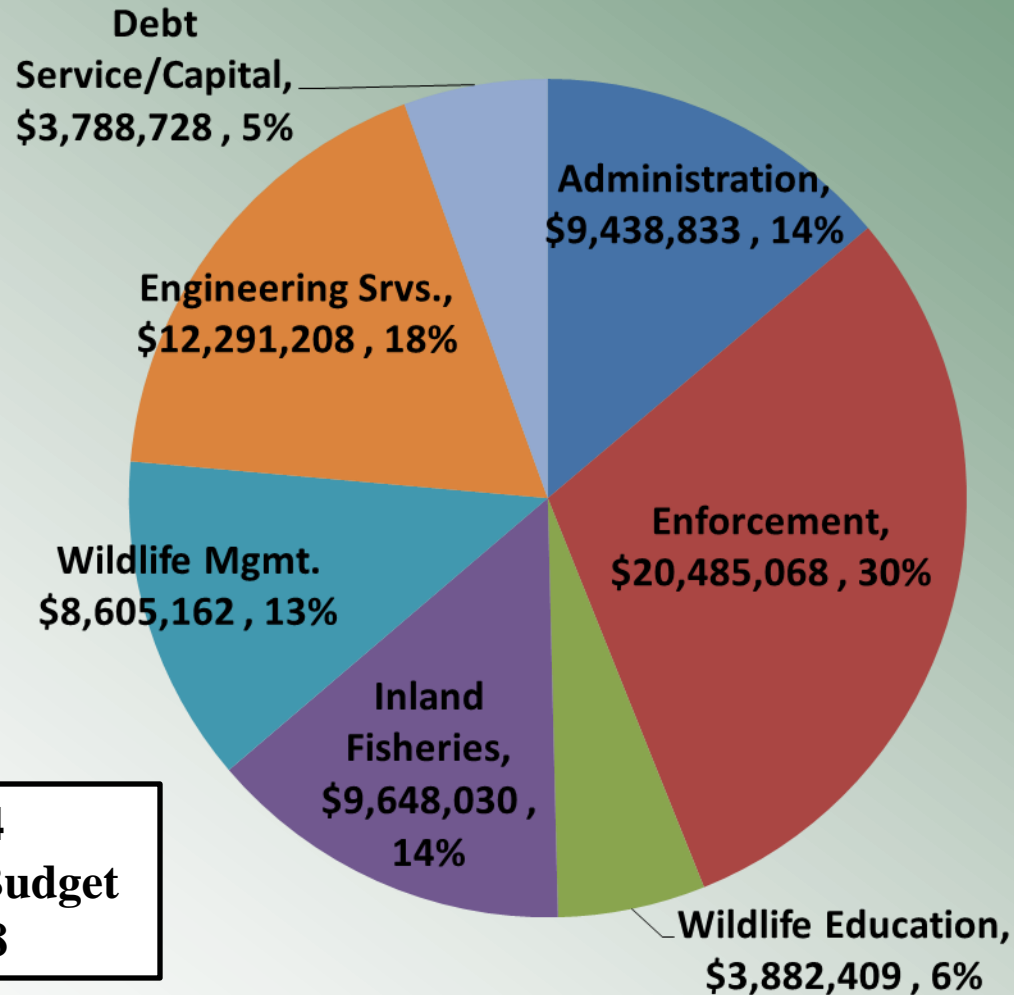
Year End Cash Balances						
Budget Code		FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13
24350	Main Operating Fund	7,871,522	11,598,360	6,607,793	7,749,283	2,331,506
24351	Hunting and Fishing Licenses ¹	10,642,380	10,746,863	13,538,053	14,234,956	19,218,832
24352	Boat Registrations and Titles	1,353,065	1,114,388	699,160	193,467	433,517

1 Use of fishing and hunting licenses are subject to legislative assent to certain federal acts. Specifically, federal Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Acts states that a State becomes ineligible to receive federal funds if it diverts the control of hunting and fishing license revenue from the control of the State fish and wildlife agency.

WRC Historical Expenditures



Budget by Program Area



**FY 2013-14
Recommended Budget
\$68,139,438**

Wildlife Endowment Fund

- G.S. 143-250.1 established the Wildlife Endowment Fund
 - Revenues deposited in the Fund include:
 - Sales of lifetime hunting, fishing, and sportsman licenses;
 - Sales of lifetime subscriptions to Wildlife magazine;
 - Gifts/donations;
 - Interest.
 - Per the NC statutes, WRC may only authorize the use of endowment investment income earned from the sale of Adult Lifetime Licenses for the purpose of *furthering the conservation of wildlife resources and the efficient operation of the North Carolina WRC*
 - **Cash value as of April 3, 2013 = \$107,111,501**

Recent Actions by the GA

- FY 2011-12
 - Eliminated the sales tax transfer to WRC budgeted at \$21.5 million
 - Replaced sales tax transfer with \$18 million General Fund appropriation - a reduction of \$3.5 million
 - Required WRC to conduct a Continuation Review of Conservation Education Program and placed program on non-recurring (NR) funding of \$778,821 during review
- FY 2012-13
 - Reduced motor fuel transferred from DOT to WRC by \$196,833
 - Replaced NR funds with recurring for Conservation Education Program
 - Required a recurring Management Flex Cut of \$344,424
 - Required WRC to move budget the General Fund

Governor's Recommended Budget Actions

- Eliminates positions vacant more than 6 months
 - Total of 26 FTEs budgeted at \$1.46 million
 - Reduces receipts by \$871K
 - Reduce General Fund appropriations by \$590k

Items for Consideration

- SL 2012-190 required WRC, DMF and DACS to study the feasibility of combining the state's fisheries management agencies.
 - What were the results of this agency mandated study? Findings? Recommendations?